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POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INFORMATION ON INDONESIA

(SELECTED TRANSLATIONS)

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FOREWORD

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POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INFORMATION ON INDONESIA

(SELECTED TRANSLATIONS)

[Following are translations of articles on the above subjects, selected from Pos Indonesia (Indonesian Post), Djakarta. Source information accompanies each article].

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UNEMPLOYMENT IN CENTRAL AND WEST JAVA

[Following is the translation of an unsigned article in Pos Indonesia, Djakarta, 20, 28 September 1960, page 2 of each issue].

According to a report from the department charged with job placement in Central Java, job seekers registered with the Department has reached 30,000. This represents 30% more unemployed than that of the preceeding year, which means that conditions are getting worse, and what the future holds can be fairly forecast.

What was referred to as unemployment by the Department of Employment comprises three types of job hunters, namely those registering for work with the Department; semi-job hunters, mainly villagers who do not have farming land of their own and work only when there are others desiring to employ them; and the so-called 100% job hunters, mainly found among students; graduates of high schools and colleges, and those who could not continue their education in higher institutions. The latter group appears when there are announcements of openings, such as for enlistment in the Air Force and the Navy. This group becomes larger year by year according to records, averaging annually not less than 5 to 8 percent of the total number of graduates, a four to five thousand.

Of the three types of unemployment, the so-called semi-job hunters are hardest to understand and most difficult to control.

27,582 job seekers found in West Java

Up to this moment the number of persons registered for work with the Department of Labor has reached 27,582, composed of job hunters and semi-job hunters.

The term job hunters has reference to students graduating from high schools and junior colleges who could not afford to continue their education in higher institutions. They come to towns to register for work or to make applications to enlist in the Army, Air Force, or Navy. Semi-job hunters are farmers who either have no land of their own or come to town to look for work between tilling seasons.

Employment in West Java is improving, according to reports from the Labor Department. The improvement comes because many projects are being built, such as that in Djatiluhur, and projects for the Asian Games. The Department of Labor requests that those who seek employment, but have not yet registered do so with the Department of Employment to enable the Government to place job hunters in the right kind of jobs.

NEW PUBLIC HEALTH LAWS

[Following is the translation of an unsigned article
in Pos Indonesia, Djakarta, 28 September 1960, page 2]

The Government is making available the basic needs of life necessary to maintain health, comprising tools, seeds, food, and housing. This is the essence of the new RUU [abbreviation unexplained in source] livelihood discussion which had been forwarded to DPR-GR [Parliament].

This new livelihood regulation came into being after it had been discussed in DPR-GR. It was also discussed by the Social Welfare Commission, and on 29 September will be discussed in the plenary session of DPR-GR.

This new RUU livelihood regulation has additional benefits in addition to those mentioned above, which is the prevention of disease by promoting cleanliness and by immunization.

The RUU livelihood provisions are especially designed to maintain the health of officials and workers. This health service will be administered and run by the Government.

It was announced that as a step to bring a healthier race, health certificates will be required from those wishing to marry. A regular check-up of the health of the new born child will be continued through his school days and maturity.

Private businesses should meet the standard of health called for by the Government. Their hospitals must meet the conditions set forth by the Department of Health. Treatment by other than medically accepted doctors will be closely observed by the Government.

Pharmacists and others dealing with medicinal products must take cognizance of their duty to bring health, and production and distribution must be arranged accordingly.

INTELLIGENCE BOARD TO BE CREATED FOR STATE TRADING FIRMS

[The following is the translation of an unsigned article in Pos Indonesia, Djakarta, 28 September 1960, page 2].

Mr. Murtolo of the Justice Department last night explained that a Board of Intelligence needs to be created to see that no financial laws are broken.

The Board charged with the prevention of violation of laws, should also be responsible for making reports to governmental bodies which have direct jurisdiction over the trading firms of the state. This type of service will be of great aid to the Justice Department in determining how effectively the government apparatus works.

The Intelligence Board members should be drawn from the trading firms' executive members, continued Mr. Murtolo. He did not indicate, however, under which body of government the Board of Intelligence will be working.

Will the Board function under the Department of Justice or the Board of Nationalization? Whether there will be special laws prescribing the activities of this Board has not been explained.

This announcement before the executive members of the trading firms of the State was made by Mr. Murtolo in a discussion on the economic aspects of Indonesia. The discussion was initiated by Presiding Officer of Nationalization, Major Soehardirman, from Army Headquarters.

JAVANESE KAPOK HAS FOREIGN COMPETITION

[Following is the translation of an unsigned article in Pos Indonesia, Djakarta, 13 September 1960, page 2].

In the three years since the Kapok Company was established on 3 September 1957, the export of kapok has risen, according to a statement to the press in Surabaya by Director Prihadi. Exports were as follows: In 1957-1958, 1.836 tons; in 1958-1959, 2.585 tons; and in 1959-1960, 3.473 tons.

Internal trade in kapok also prospered. Speculation in kapok did not cause the price to rise very high.

Sales at the end of the 1959-1960 [season] were as follows: in Java, 3.255 tons; outside Java, 1.735 tons [sic]. With the improved method of settlement of foreign commitments, the kapok companies can pass some of the benefit to the farmers through higher prices, which brings better trade within the country.

In reply to a question, Mr. Prihadi admitted that losses from reduced exports are covered by increases in prices for home consumption.

Javanese kapok ranks highest abroad. Kapok from Pakistan and India sells for only one third of the price of Javanese kapok. Siam, Tanganyika, and the US now also produce kapok, which increases the competition for Indonesia.

The quality of kapok from neighboring countries has been improving constantly because expert Dutch farmers have moved in there.

Last year, 2.100 tons of kapok was sold to the US, 540 tons to Australia and New Zealand, 747 tons to Europe, and 42 tons to Japan.

In Europe, the price of Kapok has risen from 150 to 160 D.M. [German marks?]. If the quality of the kapok of other countries were to improve, Javanese kapok would certainly face sharp competition, considering the high cost of Javanese kapok compared to that of other countries.

Exports of kapok for 1960 cannot be increased, and indications are it will remain the same as last year. Production will also remain the same, since new plantings will not be ready for harvest.

EFFORTS TO SOLVE DECLINING SUGAR PRODUCTION

[Following is the translation of an unsigned article in Pos Indonesia, Djakarta, 29 September 1960, page 2].

Declining sugar production in 1959/1960 will not be solved so long as the land rent question remains unsolved.

Land rent is considered inadequate when all the economic factors are given proper consideration.

The existing law passed by the Ministry of Agriculture limits land rent to 3,200 rupiahs per acre for sugar land, and for other types of agricultural land to between 8,000 and 10,000 rupiahs per acre.

The plan to raise land rent to 6,000 or 7,000 rupiahs per acre, announced some time ago by Minister Suprajogi, thus far applying only to the sugar district Gondangbaru, appears to be unworkable because it runs counter to land rent laws passed by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Does the Government plan to raise the sugar selling price to eight rupiahs per kilogram to enable farmers to meet higher land rent as well as to absorb other increasing costs?

As is known sugar production in 1958/1959 was 861,000 tons, and in 1959/1960 it is estimated to go down between 10 and 12 percent. The estimated monthly consumption of sugar in the country is 50,000 tons for the years to come and this figure is expected to rise to between 55,000 to 60,000 tons per month.

TEXTILE INDUSTRIES RECEIVE CREDITS

[Following is the translation of an unsigned article in Pos Indonesia, Djakarta, 5 October 1960, page 2].

To facilitate the purchase of thread for Indonesian textile industries, the Government made available a loan of 2 million rupiahs. The textile industries may use this credit to purchase thread.

According to an official report, the Bank of Indonesia channeled this credit through its correspondent banks.

As is known the need for thread was tremendous. Of 1959 import alone, 150,000 spools of threads have not yet been distributed because the textile industries experienced financial difficulties because of the changed monetary system.

It was reported that through this credit, the Government expected to see a flow of thread sufficient to supply the demands of the coming Christmas and the celebration of the end of fasting. Meanwhile 1960 threads imports have begun to flow in.

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